

**Northampton Board of Health  
Regulations Affecting Smoking in Public Places  
And Youth Access to Tobacco**

**AMMENDED NOVEMBER 16, 2006**

**SEC 7.1...PURPOSE**

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Tobacco use is a leading public health risk in the City of Northampton and throughout the United States. There is conclusive scientific evidence that tobacco smoke causes cancer, respiratory diseases, various cardiac diseases, and negative birth outcomes, of both the smoker and non-smoker. Environmental tobacco smoke [ETS], which includes both exhaled smoke and the side-stream smoke from burning tobacco, causes the death of 53,000 Americans each year (McGinnis JM, Foege W, "Actual Causes of Death in the United States", JAMA 1993 270:2207-2212). The Public Health Service's National Toxicology Program lists ETS as a known human carcinogen (US DHHS, 2000, citing California EPA, 1997).

Tobacco use by minors is a continuing problem with grave public health consequences. Annually, 5.8 million packages of cigarettes are sold illegally to minors. According to the Centers for Disease Control, every day 6000 children smoke their first cigarette and three thousand more become daily smokers. More than 80% of all smokers begin to smoke as minors. It is estimated that one third will die prematurely because of their smoking. Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has concluded that nicotine is as addictive as cocaine or heroin.

Accordingly, the Board of Health of the City of Northampton enacts the following regulation as a strict enforceable system to protect and improve public health and welfare by prohibiting smoking in public places and workplaces, and to curtail the illegal sale and access of tobacco products to minors.

**SEC 7.2...AUTHORITY**

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This regulation is promulgated pursuant to the authority granted to the Northampton Board of Health under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 111, Section 31 that: "Boards of Health may make reasonable health regulations", and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 21D and Section 57.

**SEC 7.3...DEFINITIONS**

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The following words and phrases, whenever used in this regulation, shall be construed as defined in this paragraph.

**BAR:** An establishment that is devoted to the serving of alcoholic beverages for consumption by guests on the premises.

**BOARD:** The Board of Health of the City of Northampton.

**BUSINESS AGENT:** An individual who has been designated by the owner or operator of any establishment to be the manager or otherwise in charge of said establishment.

**CIGARETTE RETAILERS LICENSE :** A license issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for tobacco sales.

**EDUCATIONAL FACILITY:** Any public or private institution of learning, including but not limited to preschools, primary and secondary schools, and adult learning institutions.

**ENCLOSED:** A space bounded by walls (with or without windows) from the floor to the ceiling and enclosed by one or more doors

**EMPLOYEE:** Any individual who performs services for an employer.

**EMPLOYER:** Any individual, partnership, association, corporation, trust or other organized group of individuals, including [city/town] or any agency thereof, which uses the services of one (1) or more employees.

**HEALTH CARE FACILITY:** Any office or institution providing care or treatment of disease, whether physical, mental or emotional, or other medical, physiological or psychological conditions including but not limited to rehabilitation hospitals or other clinics, including weight control clinics, nursing homes, homes of the aging or chronically ill, laboratories, offices of any surgeon, chiropractor, physical therapist, physician, dentist and all specialists within these professions.

**HOTEL:** Any commercial establishment that offers lodging to the public, including, but not limited to: motels, hotels, hostels and bed and breakfast establishments.

**HUMIDOR:** A room or space or enclosed area or container designed for storing cigars or other tobacco products at a constant level of humidity.

**IDENTIFICATION:** A driver's license, a US military ID, a passport, or other government-issued identification, which displays the photograph and date of birth of the bearer.

**INDOOR SPORTS ARENA:** Any indoor sports pavilion where members of the general public assemble either to engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competition, or witness sports events, including but not limited to: gymnasiums, health spas, boxing arenas, swimming pools, roller and ice rinks, bowling alleys and other similar recreational facilities.

**LIGHTERS AND MATCHES:** Any ignition device used to light a tobacco product.

**MINOR:** Any individual who is under the age of eighteen (18) years.

**OUTDOOR SEATING:** Seating on a patio or other outdoor seating portion of restaurant or bar whether or not covered or otherwise enclosed.

**PERMIT HOLDER:** Any person engaged in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers who applies for and receives a tobacco sales permit or any person who is required to apply for a tobacco sales permit pursuant to these regulations, or his or her business agent.

**PERSON:** Any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, trust or organization of any kind including, but not limited to: an owner, operator, manager, proprietor or person in charge of any building, establishment, business, restaurant or retail store; or the employee, agent or designee of any of the foregoing.

**PRIVATE CLUB:** A not-for-profit establishment created and organized pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 180 as a charitable corporation with a defined membership. A private club is not a place of public accommodation but rather distinctly private. Criteria used to determine whether a club is distinctly private include, but are not limited to, those factors identified in 204 CMR 10.02. If the private club holds an alcoholic beverage license, said license shall be a "club license" as defined in M.G.L. Ch. 138, §12 and by the Massachusetts Alcohol Beverage Control Commission. Said license is subject to the terms set forth by the local licensing authority.

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**PUBLIC PLACE:** Any enclosed area, which is or may be open to and used by the general public, including, but not limited to:

- a. any building, facility, or vehicle owned, leased, operated or occupied by the City
- b. any area open to the general public including, but not limited to: libraries, museums, theaters, auditoriums, indoor sports arenas and/or recreational facilities
- c. hotel, motel and inn lobbies
- d. public and private educational facilities
- e. shopping malls, retail stores
- f. public restrooms, lobbies, staircases, halls, exits, entrances, elevators accessible to the public
- g. licensed child-care establishments.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:** Buses, taxis and other means of transportation available to the general public while operating within the boundaries of Northampton; including indoor and outdoor boarding and waiting areas.

**RESTAURANT:** Any eating establishment which gives or sells food or beverages to the public, guests, or employees, for on-premises consumption, including, but not limited to coffee shops, cafeterias; and sandwich stands and kitchens, in which food is prepared on premises for serving elsewhere; including, but not limited to catering facilities .

**RETAIL STORE :** Any establishment, including retail food stores, whose primary purpose is to sell or offer for sale to consumers, but not for resale, any goods, wares, merchandise, articles or other items. "Retail Store" shall not include restaurants as defined herein.

**SELF-SERVICE DISPLAY:** Any display from which customers may select a tobacco product without assistance from an employee or store personnel .in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to consumers.

**SMOKING:** Inhaling, exhaling, burning or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, or other tobacco product.

**TOBACCO PRODUCT:** Cigarettes, cigars, blunts, chewing tobacco, snuff, pipe tobacco, bidis, or tobacco in any of its forms.

**VENDING MACHINE:** Any automated or mechanical self service device, which upon insertion of money, tokens or any other form of payment, dispenses cigarettes or any other tobacco product, or lighters or matches.

**WORKPLACE:** Any enclosed area of a structure or portion thereof, or any business owned or company owned vehicle at which one (1) or more employees perform services for their employer. Workplaces for the purposes of this regulation shall not include those establishments listed in Section 7.6, except as otherwise indicated.

### **SEC 7.4...POSTING NOTICE OF PROHIBITION**

Every person having control of premises upon which smoking is prohibited by and under the authority of this regulation shall conspicuously display upon the premises "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a graphic representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it) and comparable in size to the sign provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and available from the Northampton Board of Health.

**SEC 7.5...SMOKING PROHIBITED**

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- a. No person shall smoke, nor shall any person or employer or other person having control of the premises upon which smoking is regulated by this regulation, or the business agent or designee of such person, permit a person to smoke in any of the following places as defined herein: workplaces, public places, restaurants and bars, including outdoor seating of a restaurant or bar; educational facilities, indoor sports arenas, health care facilities, and public transportation, except as otherwise provided in Section 7.6 of this regulation.
- b. In conformance with MGL C.71 SEC. 37 smoking is prohibited at all times in public school facilities, on school buses and school grounds.

**SEC 7.6...EXEMPTIONS**

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- a. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7.5 of this regulation, smoking may be permitted in the following places and/or circumstances:
  - 1. **PRIVATE RESIDENCES**, except those portions used as a childcare or health care office when operating as such.
  - 2. **PRIVATE CLUBS**
- b. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Section 7.6, any owner, operator manager or other person who controls any establishment as described in this section may declare that entire establishment as a non-smoking establishment.

**SEC 7.7...CONFLICT WITH OTHER LAWS OR REGULATIONS**

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Notwithstanding the provisions of the foregoing Section 7.6 of this regulation, nothing in this regulation shall be deemed to amend or repeal applicable fire, health or other regulations so as to permit smoking in areas where it is prohibited by such fire, health or other regulations.

**SEC 7.8...ENFORCEMENT**

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- a. The Board of Health, its staff, or its designated agents shall implement enforcement of this regulation.
  - b. Any citizen who desires to register a complaint under this regulation may initiate investigation with the Board of Health.
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**SEC 7.9...TOBACCO SALES**

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- a. **Sales to minor** –No person shall sell tobacco products or lighters or matches or permit tobacco products to be sold to a minor, or not being the minor's parent or legal guardian, give tobacco products to a minor.
- b. **Posting of state law** -- In conformance with and in addition to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 270, Section 7, a copy of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 270, Section 6, shall be posted conspicuously by the owner or other person in charge thereof in the shop or other place used to sell tobacco products at retail. The notice shall be provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and made available from the Northampton Board of Health. The notice shall be at least 48 square inches and shall be posted conspicuously by the permit holder in the retail establishment or other place in such a manner so that it may be readily seen by a person standing at or approaching the cash register. The notice shall directly face the purchaser and shall not be obstructed from view or placed at a height of less than four (4) feet or greater than nine (9) feet from the floor.
- c. **Identification:** Each person selling or distributing tobacco products shall verify the age of the purchaser by means of government-issued photographic identification containing the bearer's date of birth, that the purchaser is 18 (eighteen) years-old or older. Verification is required for any person under the age of 27 (twenty-seven).
- d. **Tobacco Vending Machines Prohibited:** All tobacco vending machines are prohibited.
- e. **Permit Requirements for Location and Sales of Tobacco Products**

No person shall sell or otherwise distribute tobacco at retail within the City of Northampton, without first obtaining a "Permit for Location and Sales of Tobacco Products", issued annually by the Board of Health. Failure to obtain such permit shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.

- 1. Applicants for the "Permit for Location and Sale of Tobacco Products" shall provide proof of a current tobacco sales license issued by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, before a permit is issued.
  - 2. A separate permit is required for each retail establishment selling tobacco.
  - 3. The Board shall determine the fee for the "Permit for Location and Sale of Tobacco Products". All such permits shall be renewed annually by January 1.
  - 4. The "Permit for Location and Sale of Tobacco Products" shall be displayed at the retail establishment in a conspicuous place.
  - 5. During such time that a "Permit for Location and Sale of Tobacco Products" has been suspended for violations of this Regulation, all tobacco products shall be removed from public areas of the retail establishment. Failure to remove all tobacco products shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.
  - 6. A "Permit for Location and Sale of Tobacco Products" is non-transferable, except a new permit will be issued, upon application to a tobacco retailer who changes locations.
  - 7. Issuance of the "Permit for Location and Sale of Tobacco Products" shall be conditioned on an applicant's consent to unannounced, periodic inspections of the retail establishment to ensure compliance with this regulation.
- g. **Free Distribution of Tobacco Products Prohibited:** No person shall distribute or cause to be distributed any free samples of tobacco products.
- h. **Out-of-Package Sales Prohibited:** No person may sell or cause to be sold, or distribute or cause to be distributed any cigarette package that contains fewer than twenty (20) cigarettes, including single cigarettes or any tobacco product not in its original packaging.

- i. **Self-Service Prohibited:** All self-service displays of tobacco products are prohibited. All retail sales of tobacco, matches or lighters must be face-to face between the seller and the buyer. All humidors including, but not limited to, walk-in humidors must be locked.

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### **SEC 7.10...FINES AND PENALTIES**

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- a. **Non-Criminal Disposition:** Whoever violates any provision of the regulation, the violation of which is subject to a specific penalty, may be penalized by the non-criminal method of disposition as provided in Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 21D or by filing a criminal complaint at the appropriate venue. The enforcing agency shall be the Board of Health or its designees.
- b. **Smoking Prohibited Sections 7.4, 7.5, 7.6**
  - 1. Any person, employer, business agent or other person having control of the premises, not in compliance with the provisions of this regulation shall be subject to a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for a first offense, two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for a second offense within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the first offense and three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for a third or subsequent offense within twenty-four (24) months of the date of the previous offense.
  - 2. Each day of non-compliance with Section 7.4, 7.5, and 7.6 shall be considered a separate and distinct violation thereof.
  - 3. In accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 57, any person or business having control of the premises, not in compliance with the provisions of this regulation, who has neglected or refused to pay any fees including amounts assessed under the provisions of Section 21D, within twenty-one (21) days of issuance of violation and who does not have a pending court appeal, is subject to suspension or revocation of any local Board of Health license or permit.
- c. **Tobacco Sales Section 7.9**

It shall be the responsibility of the permit holder and/or his or her business agent to ensure compliance with all sections of this regulation pertaining to his or her place of business. The violator shall receive:

- 1. In the case of a first violation of Section 7.9, t a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00)
- 2. In the case of a second violation within 24 [twenty-four] months of the date of the current violation, a fine of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for seven (7) consecutive business days.
- 3. In the case of three violations within a 24 [twenty-four]-month period, a fine of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) and the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
- 4. In the case of four violations within a 24 [twenty-four] month period, the tobacco sales permit shall be suspended for ninety (90) consecutive days.
- 5. In the case of five violations within a 24 [twenty-four] month period, the penalty of the tobacco sales permit suspension will be at the discretion of the Board of Health.
- 6. The issuance of a new permit on January 1, after five violations will be at the discretion of the Board of Health.
- 7. Refusal to cooperate with inspections pursuant to this regulation shall result in the suspension of the tobacco sales permit for thirty (30) consecutive business days.
- 8. In addition to the monetary fines set above, any permit holder who engages in the sale or distribution of tobacco products directly to a consumer while his or her

permit is suspended shall be subject to the suspension of all board of health issued permits for thirty (30) consecutive business days.

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### **d. Hearings**

1. The Board of Health shall provide notice of the intent to suspend, revoke or deny a permit by certified mail-return receipt requested, to the permit holder.
2. The notice shall contain the reasons for the permit suspension and establish a time and date for a hearing.
3. The date of the hearing shall be no earlier than seven (7) days after the date of said notice.
4. The permit holder shall have an opportunity to be heard at such hearing.
5. The permit holder shall be notified of the Board's decision, and the reasons therefore, in writing, within ten (10) days of the hearing.
6. Failure to appear in person, at the hearing shall act as a waiver to the right to a hearing and the fine, revocation, denial or suspension shall, if applicable, become effective on the date included in the notice.
7. The Northampton Board of Health, after a hearing, may suspend the tobacco sales permit. All tobacco products shall be removed from the retail establishment upon suspension of the tobacco sales permit.
8. Failure to remove all tobacco products shall constitute a separate violation of this regulation.
9. Any permit holder who does not pay the assessed fine within twenty-one days from fine issuance may be subject to criminal proceedings.

### **SEC 7.11 ... SEVERABILITY**

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If any paragraph or provision of this regulation is found to be illegal or against public policy or unconstitutional, it shall not affect the legality of any remaining paragraphs or provisions.